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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/600,390	06/20/2003	Avijit Chatterjee	ROC920030238US1	7557

46797 7590 07/21/2009

IBM CORPORATION, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
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EXAMINER

HARPER, LEON JONATHAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2166

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/21/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/600,390

Applicant(s)

CHATTERJEE ET AL.

Examiner

LEON HARPER

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period **will** apply and **will** expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply **will**, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 May 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 11-18, 25, 36 and 37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 11-18, 25, 36-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/4/2009 has been entered. Claims 9, 25 and 36 have been amended. Claim 37 has been added. No new claims have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 9, 11-18, 25, 36 and 37 are pending in this office action.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 9, 11-18, 25, 36 and 37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

Art Unit: 2166

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 9, 11-18 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over US 6687878 (Eintracht) in view of US 7010144 (hereinafter Davis)

As for claim 9 Eintracht discloses: a data store storing a plurality of data objects (See column 6 lines 34-45); a plurality of different applications for editing the plurality of data objects (See column 5 lines 65-67, and column 1 lines 55-60) wherein each application performs a different type of editing and wherein a relationship is defined between each data object and a respective application for editing the respective data object (See column 8 lines 40-46) an annotation store storing one or more annotations annotating the plurality of data objects edited the plurality of different applications (See column 6 lines 45-48), and an annotation browser configured to access, by operation of one or more computer processors (See column 7 lines 25-30) Eintracht does not disclose: the annotation store and provide one or more graphical user interfaces for creating and viewing the one or more annotations wherein the annotation browser is configured to display the one or more annotations along with selectable links from each of the one or more annotations to at least one of the plurality of data objects annotated by the respective annotation of the one or more annotations; and wherein selecting any one of the selectable links causes the respective application for editing the respective data object to be invoked according to the defined relationship between the respective application and the respective data object. Davis however does disclose: the annotation

store and provide one or more graphical user interfaces for creating and viewing the one or more annotations (See column 2 lines 40-50) wherein the annotation browser is configured to display the one or more annotations along with selectable links from each of the one or more annotations to at least one of the plurality of data objects annotated by the respective annotation of the one or more annotations (See column 6 lines 14-24); and wherein selecting any one of the selectable links causes the respective application for editing the respective data object to be invoked according to the defined relationship between the respective application and the respective data object (See column 3 lines 15-20 and figure 3 noting that the application must be compliant application). It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the teaching of Davis into the system of Eintracht. The modification would have been obvious because the two references are concerned with the solution to problem of data processing, therefore there is an implicit motivation to combine these references. In other words, the ordinary skilled artisan, during his/her quest for a solution to the cited problem, would look to the cited references at the time the invention was made. Consequently, the ordinary skilled artisan would have been motivated to combine the cited references since Davis's teaching would enable user's of the Eintracht system to embed annotations steganographically into the displayed data (See Davis column 1 lines 55-67).

As for claim 11 the rejection of claim 9 is incorporated, and further Eintracht discloses: wherein the annotation browser is configured to display data and indications

of what displayed data has one or more corresponding annotations (See column 7 lines 55-67).

As for claim 12 the rejection of claim 11 is incorporated, and further Eintracht discloses wherein the annotation browser is configured to display one or more annotation icons proximate to an annotated data object (See column 15 lines 15-20).

As for claim 13, the rejection of claim 12 is incorporated, and further Eintracht discloses: wherein: at least one common annotation describes more than one data object (See column 15 lines 35-37), and the annotation browser is configured to display a common annotation icon proximate to data objects described by the common annotation (See column 15 lines 30-35 note: the icons can be graphics themselves).

As for claim 14, the rejection of claim 13 is incorporated, and further Eintracht discloses wherein the annotation browser is configured to display different annotation icons proximate to data objects described by different annotations (See column 15 lines 24-28).

As for claim 15, the rejection of claim 9 is incorporated, and further Eintracht discloses: wherein the annotation browser is configured to display a first annotation icon to indicate a displayed data object has a single annotation and a second annotation icon to indicate a displayed data object has multiple annotations (See column 14 lines 29-34)

As for claim 16, the rejection of claim 9 is incorporated, and further Eintracht discloses: wherein the annotation browser is configured to display a first portion of annotation data from an annotation, in response to a user positioning a cursor over an associated annotation icon (See column 15 lines 15-20 note: cursor must move over checkbox).

As for claim 17, the rejection of claim 16 is incorporated, and further Eintracht disclose: wherein the annotation browser is further configured to, in response to the user selecting the annotation icon, display a second portion of annotation data from the annotation (See column 14 lines 30-40).

As for claim 18, the rejection of claim 17 is incorporated, and further Eintracht discloses wherein the annotation browser is further configured to, in response to the user selecting the annotation icon, retrieve the second portion of annotation data from the annotation store (See column 7 lines 1-10).

As for claim 25 Eintracht discloses: a data store storing a plurality of data objects (See column 6 lines 34-45); a plurality of different applications for editing the plurality of data objects (See column 5 lines 65-67, and column 1 lines 55-60) wherein each application performs a different type of editing and wherein a relationship is defined between each data object and a respective application for editing the respective data object (See column 8 lines 40-46) an annotation database storing a plurality of

annotations (See column 6 lines 25-28), wherein the plurality of annotations are stored separately from the plurality of data objects (See column 6 lines 45-55); a set of data object points (See column 7 lines 63-67), each data object point comprising an annotatable portion of one of the plurality of data objects (See column 7 lines 55-60) , wherein one or more of the set of data object points is annotated by one or more of the plurality of annotations (See column 8 line 65- column 9 line 3); a set of plug-in components (See column 8 lines 28-30), each interfacing between one or more annotation applications and an annotation server (See column 8 lines 34-43), wherein the annotation server is configured to: (i) receive, via the plug-in components, requests to access the plurality of annotations (See column 10 lines 34-40), the requests issued by the one or more annotation applications and (ii) generate a graphical user interface screen, based on an annotation structure associated with one or more of the set of data object points, for creating or viewing annotations for one or more of the set of data object points (See figure 1 b); and a browser application configured to browse the plurality of annotations in the annotation database, wherein the browser application is configured to: (i) access, by operation of one or more computer processors (See column 7 lines 25-30). Eintracht does not disclose: a set of annotation structures, each defining a set of annotation fields selected to capture annotations of a specific type of data object point. the plurality of annotations independently of the annotation applications in which the plurality of annotations were created and (ii) display the plurality of annotations along with selectable links from each of the plurality of annotations to at least one data object point annotated by each annotation, wherein selecting any one of

the selectable links causes the respective application for editing the respective annotated data object point to be invoked according to the defined relationship between the respective application and the respective annotated data object Davis does however disclose: a set of annotation structures (See column 10 lines 20-30), each defining a set of annotation fields selected to capture annotations of a specific type of data object point (See column 10 lines 30-35); the plurality of annotations independently of the annotation applications in which the plurality of annotations were created (See column 2 lines 40-50) and (ii) display the plurality of annotations along with selectable links from each of the plurality of annotations to at least one data object point annotated by each annotation (See column 6 lines 14-24), wherein selecting any one of the selectable links causes the respective application for editing the respective annotated data object point to be invoked according to the defined relationship between the respective application and the respective annotated data object (See column 3 lines 15-20 and figure 3 noting that the application must be compliant application). It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the teaching of Davis into the system of Eintracht. The modification would have been obvious because the two references are concerned with the solution to problem of data processing, therefore there is an implicit motivation to combine these references. In other words, the ordinary skilled artisan, during his/her quest for a solution to the cited problem, would look to the cited references at the time the invention was made. Consequently, the ordinary skilled artisan would have been motivated to combine the cited references since Davis's teaching would enable user's of the

Eintracht system to embed annotations steganographically into the displayed data (See Davis column 1 lines 55-67).

As for claim 36 Eintracht discloses: an annotation database storing a plurality of annotations (See column 6 lines 25-28), a data store storing a plurality of data objects (See column 6 lines 34-45); a set of data object points (See column 7 lines 63-67), each data object point being an annotatable portion of one of the plurality of data objects (See column 7 lines 55-60) , wherein one or more of the set of data object points is annotated by one or more of the plurality of annotations (See column 8 line 65- column 9 line 3); a set of index tables indexing the one or more of the set of data object points annotated by the one or more of the plurality of annotations (See column 9 lines 15-25) , wherein each index table corresponds to a different type of data object point (See column 8 lines 15-25). a plurality of different applications for editing the plurality of data objects (See column 5 lines 65-67, and column 1 lines 55-60) wherein each application performs a different type of editing and wherein a relationship is defined between each data object and a respective application for editing the respective data object (See column 8 lines 40-46) wherein the plurality of annotations are stored separately from the plurality of data objects (See column 6 lines 45-55); a set of administration tools configured for creating and modifying the set of annotation structures a client computer comprising a set of plug-in components (See column 8 lines 28-30), each interfacing between one or more annotation applications and an annotation server (See column 8 lines 34-43), wherein the annotation server is configured to: (i) receive, via the plug-in

components, requests to access the plurality of annotations (See column 10 lines 34-40), the requests issued by the one or more annotation applications and (ii) generate a graphical user interface screen, based on an annotation structure associated with one or more of the set of data object points, for creating or viewing annotations for one or more of the set of data object points (See figure 1 b); an annotation broker managing messages passing between the annotation server and the set of plug-in components (See column 7 lines 25-35) and a browser application configured to browse the plurality of annotations in the annotation database, wherein the browser application is configured to: (i) access, by operation of one or more computer processors, and a communications network providing connectivity between the client computer and the annotation server (See column 7 lines 25-30). Eintracht does not disclose: a set of annotation structures, each defining a set of annotation fields selected to capture annotations of a specific type of data object point and each corresponding to a specific combination of user role and data scope. the plurality of annotations independently of the annotation applications in which the plurality of annotations were created and (ii) display the plurality of annotations along with selectable links from each of the plurality of annotations to at least one data object point annotated by each annotation, wherein selecting any one of the selectable links causes the respective application for editing the respective annotated data object point to be invoked according to the defined relationship between the respective application and the respective annotated data object. Davis does however disclose: a set of annotation structures (See column 10 lines 20-30), each defining a set of annotation fields selected to capture annotations of a specific type of

data object point and each corresponding to a specific combination of user role and data scope (See column 10 lines 30-35); the plurality of annotations independently of the annotation applications in which the plurality of annotations were created (See column 2 lines 40-50) and (ii) display the plurality of annotations along with selectable links from each of the plurality of annotations to at least one data object point annotated by each annotation (See column 6 lines 14-24), wherein selecting any one of the selectable links causes the respective application for editing the respective annotated data object point to be invoked according to the defined relationship between the respective application and the respective annotated data object (See column 3 lines 15-20 and figure 3 noting that the application must be compliant application). It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the teaching of Davis into the system of Eintracht. The modification would have been obvious because the two references are concerned with the solution to problem of data processing, therefore there is an implicit motivation to combine these references. In other words, the ordinary skilled artisan, during his/her quest for a solution to the cited problem, would look to the cited references at the time the invention was made. Consequently, the ordinary skilled artisan would have been motivated to combine the cited references since Davis's teaching would enable user's of the Eintracht system to embed annotations steganographically into the displayed data (See Davis column 1 lines 55-67).

As for claim 37 Eintracht discloses: a data store storing a plurality of data objects (See column 6 lines 34-45); a plurality of different applications for editing the plurality of data objects (See column 5 lines 65-67, and column 1 lines 55-60) wherein each application performs a different type of editing and wherein a relationship is defined between each data object and a respective application for editing the respective data object (See column 8 lines 40-46); an annotation database storing a plurality of annotations wherein the annotations are stored separately from the plurality of data objects (See column 6 lines 25-28), a set of data object points (See column 7 lines 63-67), each data object point being an annotatable portion of one of the plurality of data objects (See column 7 lines 55-60) , wherein one or more of the set of data object points is annotated by one or more of the plurality of annotations (See column 8 line 65-column 9 line 3); a set of index tables indexing the one or more of the set of data object points annotated by the one or more of the plurality of annotations (See column 9 lines 15-25) , wherein each index table corresponds to a different type of data object point (See column 8 lines 15-25). wherein the plurality of annotations are stored separately from the plurality of data objects (See column 6 lines 45-55); a set of plug-in components (See column 8 lines 28-30), each interfacing between one or more annotation applications and an annotation server (See column 8 lines 34-43), wherein the annotation server is configured to: (i) receive, via the plug-in components, requests to access the plurality of annotations (See column 10 lines 34-40), the requests issued by the one or more annotation applications and (ii) generate a graphical user interface screen, based on an annotation structure associated with one or more of the set of data

object points, for creating or viewing annotations for one or more of the set of data object points (See figure 1 b); a browser application configured to browse the plurality of annotations in the annotation database, wherein the browser application is configured to: (i) access, by operation of one or more computer processors(See column 7 lines 25-30). wherein the annotation browser is configured to display a first annotation icon to indicate a displayed data object has a single annotation and a second annotation icon to indicate a displayed data object has multiple annotations (See column 14 lines 29-34). wherein the annotation browser is configured to display a first portion of annotation data from an annotation, in response to a user positioning a cursor over an associated annotation icon (See column 15 lines 15-20 note: cursor must move over checkbox)wherein the annotation browser is further configured to, in response to the user selecting the annotation icon, display a second portion of annotation data from the annotation (See column 14 lines 30-40). Eintracht does not disclose: a set of annotation structures, each defining a set of annotation fields selected to capture annotations of a specific type of data object point. The plurality of annotations independently of the annotation applications in which the plurality of annotations were created and (ii) display the plurality of annotations along with selectable links from each of the plurality of annotations to at least one data object point annotated by each annotation, wherein selecting any one of the selectable links causes the respective application for editing the respective annotated data object point to be invoked according to the defined relationship between the respective application and the respective annotated data object. Davis does however disclose: a set of annotation

structures (See column 10 lines 20-30), each defining a set of annotation fields selected to capture annotations of a specific type of data object point and each corresponding to a specific combination of user role and data scope (See column 10 lines 30-35); the plurality of annotations independently of the annotation applications in which the plurality of annotations were created (See column 2 lines 40-50) and (ii) display the plurality of annotations along with selectable links from each of the plurality of annotations to at least one data object point annotated by each annotation (See column 6 lines 14-24), wherein selecting any one of the selectable links causes the respective application for editing the respective annotated data object point to be invoked according to the defined relationship between the respective application and the respective annotated data object (See column 3 lines 15-20 and figure 3 noting that the application must be compliant application). It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the teaching of Davis into the system of Eintracht. The modification would have been obvious because the two references are concerned with the solution to problem of data processing, therefore there is an implicit motivation to combine these references. In other words, the ordinary skilled artisan, during his/her quest for a solution to the cited problem, would look to the cited references at the time the invention was made. Consequently, the ordinary skilled artisan would have been motivated to combine the cited references since Davis's teaching would enable user's of the Eintracht system to embed annotations steganographically into the displayed data (See Davis column 1 lines 55-67).

Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LEON HARPER whose telephone number is (571)272-0759. The examiner can normally be reached on Flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/LEON HARPER/
Examiner, Art Unit 2166
July 19, 2009

/Isaac M. Woo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2166